

Coal Creek Watershed Coalition

Minutes: May 31, 2006

The meeting began at 9:00 AM. Those in attendance were: Anthony Poponi, Steve Glazer, John Hess, Larry Adams, and Harvey Castro

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as noted.

Agenda

5 Items to Discuss*

1. EPA Spring Sampling Results
2. Keystone Mine Access and Concerns
3. Tag Grant Update
4. Sampling Protocols and Sites
5. New Business

*Some items from the agenda were tabled for future meetings

1. EPA Spring Sampling Results

The results from the sampling conducted on 4/10 and 4/11 by URS were received and have raised some concerns about water quality in the stream segments in Red Lady Basin between the Fen and the Keystone Water Treatment Plants WTP) discharge.

The data points causing concern are as follows:

Site Name	Location Description	Dissolved Cd	Dissolved Zn
Coal 07	Downstream of the Iron Bog Discharge	0.3	90
Coal 05	50 yards downstream of confluence o of Keystone WTP discharge	5.7	1260
Coal 02	Just upstream of the town of Crested Butte	2.4	500

Using a mass balance between Coal 7 and Coal 5 any water entering the creek in this segment must be heavily loaded with Cd and Zn to cause such a dramatic increase in the concentrations of these metals at Coal 05. The possibility of surface waters entering Coal Creek via the Red Lady Basin and/or Keystone WTP creek was discussed.

2. Keystone Mine Access and Concerns

Steve Glazer and Tyler Martineau have been trying to access the Keystone WTP to review the storm water management plan (SWMP) found on site. The SWMP is not required to be on file with the state but must be available on site. Todd Chamberlain, plant manager, initially agreed to the visit but was told by his superiors that they first needed to change names on the SWMP to reflect the change in ownership from Phelps-Dodge to US Energy Crested Corp (USECC) before allowing it to be released.

In addition, local officials and the general public are not being allowed to use the Keystone Mine road to access the Standard Mine. The EPA has authority to use the road through CERCLA (Superfund)

which extends to their contractors but not to local officials and the general public. Others wanting to access the site must hike Elk Creek Trail adjacent to Elk Creek.

3. TAG Grant Update

Steve Glazer submitted a letter to the EPA regarding our intentions to form a separate entity as a 501(c)3 and to apply for a TAG grant through this entity.

The application for filing a non-profit with the state can be done online for \$0.99. The Left Hand Watershed Group has provided the CCWC with their by-laws and articles of incorporation, which we can use as a template for the TAG grant organization we form. The organization is likely to be called the Standard Mine Technical Advisory Group (SMTAG).

John Hess proposed Steve G. and Anthony should put together the bylaws for the SMTAG.

Steve Glazer proposed he would be president with Tyler Martineau as vice president and Harvey Castro as secretary treasurer.

4. Sampling Protocols and Sites

Sampling for the summer is scheduled for June 6th, August 16th, and October 10th. The June 6th sampling event was requested by the EPA in an attempt to catch the second high water pulse since the June 19th sampling done by the EPA will likely miss this pulse. Six sites were determined for the sampling event Coal 20, Coal 15, Elk 00, Coal 10, Coal 05 and Key 00. Considering the short time frame for ordering supplies and having the lab process the samples we may not be able to conduct the sampling.

The August and October dates for sampling were chosen in an effort to fill the gaps in the dates of EPAs sampling events (June 19-23, July 17-28, and September 11-15). The details for the August and October sampling events were tabled for a future meeting.

5. New Business

A. Redwell Basin

Steve G. is concerned that groundwater from mineworks at Standard Mine could be infiltrating into Redwell Basin and Oh-Be-Joyful causing some of the contamination of Cd and Zn leading to Oh Be Joyful being listed as impaired by the Water Quality Control Commission, also known as their 303(d) list. The EPA and the State Division of Minerals and Geology will be looking into this possibility when they enter the mineworks this summer.

B. Miscellaneous

Steve G. gave Anthony 4 reports on the fen and the results of the Stream Visual Assessment Protocol to read and copy for any interested parties.

Grant ideas for future projects were considered. At this point a grant to fund a pilot educational program would be considered as a need – possibly through the Gunnison Area Foundation. Other needs and the appropriate grants to fund these needs will be addressed as they arise.